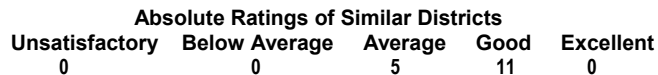


Aiken

ABSOLUTE RATING: Good
IMPROVEMENT RATING: Below Average



Definitions of District Rating Terms

Excellent- District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

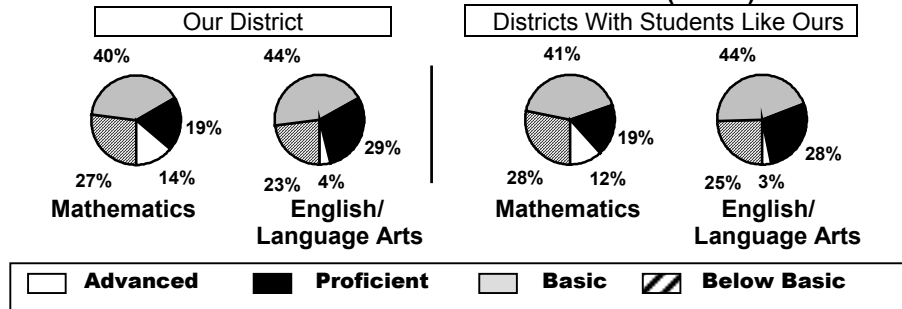
Good- District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average- District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average- District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory- District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2002		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Students Scoring Basic or Above on The PACT		
	N	%	N	%	N	% ELA	% Math
All students	1,474	94.8%	1,264	26.5%	10,92	77.1%	72.9%
Students with disabilities other than speech	50	74.0%	70	1.4%	851	47.4%	38.5%
Students without disabilities	1,423	95.4%	1,194	28.0%	10,008	80.1%	76.3%
Gender							
Male	709	93.9%	574	26.1%	5,576	72.7%	73.2%
Female	763	95.3%	690	29.3%	5,347	81.7%	72.7%
Ethnic Group							
African American	404	89.4%	378	8.5%	3,831	63.5%	56.3%
Hispanic	15	100.0%	17	29.4%	239	68.2%	68.2%
White	1,042	96.5%	875	35.8%	6,757	85.0%	82.4%
Other	8	100.0%	5	40.0%	90	85.6%	83.3%
Lunch Status							
Free/reduced-price lunch	312	86.5%	298	10.1%	5,119	66.2%	60.6%
Pay for lunch	1,153	96.8%	966	31.6%	5,653	88.3%	85.4%

N equals number of students on which percentages are calculated.

*Using the criteria for students who entered college in fall 2001.

Aiken

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	First-time Examinees		
	2000	2001	2002
Our district			
Passed all 3 subtests	74.8%	72.3%	73.5%
Passed 2 subtests	12.8%	16.4%	14.4%
Passed 1 subtest	8.1%	7.0%	7.8%
Passed no subtest	4.3%	4.4%	4.3%
Districts with students like ours			
Passed all 3 subtests	69.3%	71.2%	69.5%
Passed 2 subtests	16.7%	16.6%	16.2%
Passed 1 subtest	9.0%	7.8%	8.9%
Passed no subtest	5.0%	4.4%	5.5%

LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions*

	Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement	Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement
Our District	26.5	26.7
Districts Like Ours	20.2	20.9

*Using the criteria for students who entered college in fall 2001.

College Admissions Tests: Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

	SAT Verbal		SAT Math		SAT Total		ACT English		ACT Math		ACT Reading		ACT Science		ACT Total	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
District	497	503	511	517	1008	1020	19.9	19.4	21.2	19.8	20.4	19.8	20.1	20.0	20.5	19.9
State	486	488	488	493	974	981	18.8	18.8	19.3	19.1	19.5	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.2
Nation	506	504	514	516	1020	1020	20.5	20.2	20.7	20.6	21.3	21.1	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

These tests were administered to samples of students:

Terra Nova Test: A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percent scoring in upper half

	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	47.8	50.0	43.1	50.0	58.4	50.0	50.5	50.0
Grade 7	45.8	50.0	59.4	50.0	54.7	50.0	53.9	50.0
Grade 10	59.6	50.0	59.5	50.0	62.4	50.0	59.1	50.0

National Assessment of Education Progress : A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Percents of Students

Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	4	1998	4	6	18	23	33	32	45	39
Writing	8	1998	0	1	15	23	64	59	21	17
Mathematics	4	2000	2	3	16	23	42	43	40	31

ABBREVIATIONS FOR MISSING DATA

N/A – Not Applicable

N/C – Not Collected

N/R – Not Reported

I/S – Insufficient Sample

DISTRICT PROFILE

INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

	This District	Change from Last Year	Districts With Students Like Ours	Median District
DISTRICT				
• Dollars per student	\$5,984	Up 10.3%	\$6,817	\$7,072
• Prime instructional time	89.4%	Down from 89.9%	90.0%	89.9%
• Student-teacher ratio	18.6 to 1	Down from 22.0 to 1	20.1 to 1	18.6 to 1
• Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.1%	Down from 0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
STUDENTS (n=23,732)				
• Advanced placement/ Int'l baccalaureate program:				
Participation Rate	17.8%	N/A	11.5%	9.3%
Exam Success Rate	66.8%	N/A	53.4%	52.7%
• Attendance Rate	95.7%	Up from 95.5%	96.2%	96.0%
• Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	6.8%	Up from 6.2%	4.7%	7.1%
• Taking PACT (Math) off grade level	5.6%	Up from 5.3%	4.1%	5.6%
• Retention rate	5.5%	Up from 5.2%	5.0%	5.6%
TEACHERS (n=1,581)				
• Professional development days per teacher	N/R	N/R	5.0 Days	5.0 Days
• Attendance rate	94.6%	Down from 95.5%	95.1%	95.0%
• Advanced Degrees	38.7%	Up from 37.5%	49.1%	46.6%
• Continuing contracts	81.0%	Up from 78.3%	84.1%	83.1%
• Out-of-field permits	1.6%	Down from 1.7%	2.5%	2.0%
• Teachers returning from the previous year	91.3%	Down from 91.6%	89.9%	88.6%
• Average salary	\$39,700	Up 5.7%	\$40,007	\$39,023

DISTRICT FACTS

DISTRICT				
• Annual dropout rate	3.1%	Up from 3.0%	3.6%	3.1%
• Percentage spent on teacher salaries	58.1%	Up from 54.9%	54.0%	53.7%
• Superintendent's years in the district	7.0	Up from 6.0	5.3	3.0
• Parent conferences	88.4%	Up from 81.0%	96.8%	93.9%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
• Number of schools	37	No change	15	8
• Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of magnet schools	2	Up from 0	0	0
• Portable classrooms	9.8%	Up from 9.5%	5.7%	6.6%
• Attendance rate of district office staff	98.3%	Down from 98.6%	97.2%	96.8%
• Average administrative salary	\$66,532	Up 6.1%	\$67,995	\$66,570
STUDENTS				
• Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs	478	N/A	167	129
• Number of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	142	N/A	62	37
• Suspensions and expulsions	0.9%	N/A	1.6%	1.5%
• Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs	20.2%	Up from 18.1%	14.5%	10.6%
• Percentage with disabilities other than speech	8.8%	Down from 8.9%	10.7%	10.7%

Aiken School District
1000 Brookhaven Drive
Aiken, South Carolina 29803



Grades K-12

Enrollment: 23,732 Students

Superintendent Dr. Linda B. Eldridge 803-641-2428

Board Chair Dr. John B. Bradley 803-641-2431

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Annual District
Report Card**

2002

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The past school year has been marked by the most significant student improvement in the history of the Aiken County Public School system. We are proud of the progress our students are making. Consider these successes from the past year:

The Aiken County Public School students' average score on the SAT is 1008 for the class of 2001. This is a 16-point increase over last year and a 37- point increase since 1995. Students in the top 10 percent scored 1200, outperforming the national group who scored 1196. Approximately 60% of Aiken County students chose to take the SAT this year. Students in Aiken County perform significantly better than the nation in Reading, Language, and Mathematics as measured by TerraNova, a nationally normed achievement test. All grade levels exceeded the national 50 percentile. Students in grades three through eight showed improvement over three years on the very rigorous Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT), a state-required test. 77.4% of the students met standard on the English/Language Arts test and 70.3% met standard on the Mathematics test. Most of our students are meeting state standards and continue to perform above the state average. 83% of the tenth-graders passed the South Carolina High School Exit Exam in Math, 88% in Reading, and 89% in Writing on the first attempt. Well over 90% of our seniors meet the requirements to graduate (which requires passing the State Exit Exam). Nearly 70% of our graduating seniors enter a post-secondary institution and pass over 90% of the coursework their freshmen year. (The test data that is reflected in this summary is different from the 2002 report card, as the results had not been released to school districts in time to include here.) SchoolMatch, a non-profit Chicago-based research firm that reviews data from the nation's 15,893 school systems, has selected this school district for the fifth consecutive year as an award-winning school system.

As Superintendent of Schools, I can assure you that it is the goal of Aiken County Board of Education to provide quality educational opportunities for all Aiken County students. There is work to be done in all of our schools. Our eyes are focused on continuous improvement. Our progress is real. Aiken County educators, parents, students and communities are providing that focus and hard work pays off in undeniable progress.

Dr. Linda B. Eldridge, Superintendent

South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit
www.myschools.com or
www.sceoc.org